U.S. decision on supply of Military Hardware to Pakistan

953. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the U.S. decision to resume supply of strategic military hardware to Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the implications involved in the U.S. move following the test firing of Haft-III missile by Pakistan; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI K AM ALA SINHA): (a) and (b) The US supplied military equipment to Pakistan in 1996 in the context of the Brown Amendment. At that time the US Government had stated that this was a one-time waiver of relavant US laws restricting supply of military equipment to Pakistan.

In July, 1997, the US Senate approved the Harkin-Warner Amendment to the US Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for limited resumption of economic and military cooperation with Pakistan which had remained suspended on account of US domestic legislation regarding nuclear matters. The Amendment came in the wake of reports of Pakistan having tested a medium-range missile.

(c) Government are committed to keeping all matters that have a bearing on India's security under careful review. GOI's concerns regarding the Harkin-Warner Amendment were conveyed to the US Government. GOI also issued a statement on this subject which stated that the US move could not but be viewed with concern in India an encouragement to Pakistan's clandestine nuclear and missile programmes and that Government will takes appropriate steps to safeguard India's security. It is understood that in the final version of the Harkin-Warner Amendment the provisions relating to military training have been dropped.

Criticism of Trade Policies by Diplomatic Personnel in Japan

954. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether diplomatic personnel posted with our embassy in Japan have written to the Ministry of External Affairs severely criticising our economic, industrial and trade policies and whether they have also ensured that this letter receives wide publicity;

(b) in case answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, whether to an enquiry will be launched to pinpoint the responsibility for leaking the contents of the letter, to the media; and

(c) whether a series of re-orientation courses are necessary to impress upon our diplomatic personnel that, despite globalisation, their prime duty is to represent national interests abroad and not to act as lobbyists for foreign business or industrial entities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Our Missions abroad however continuously report on local investor perceptions. Contents of such communications are normally not divulged publicly. Where Govt, communications are seen "leaking", the circumstances are looked into and necessary percautions are taken.

(c) Orientation courses for our Commercial officers are held from time to time to enable them to be more effective and serve our national interests.

Attack on Faibfield School in Iowa, USA

955. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the excellent work done by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's Faibfield School in Iowa USA, which has been editorially praised even by the Wall Street Journal, as

reported in 'The Hindu' of 27th June, 1997;

(b) whether Government are aware of Iowa State's attack on this School on the ground that it is not co-educational; and

(c) whether Government would draw the attention of US Government to the fact that freedom of choice implies freedom to study in single-sex or coeducational school?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. .

(b) Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's school, known as Maharishi School of the Age of Enlightenment, at Fairfield, Iowa, USA conducts classes on single gender basis, i.e. separate sections for boys and girls. The Iowa State Authorities had told the School to stop such single gender classes. The School did not stop the single gender classes, but took up the matter with the Iowa State Authorities but the School has been allowed to continue with the single gender classes for the time being.

(c) The issue of single gender classes has country-wide implications in the US and is an issue of national debate. The School comes under the purview of the concerned State and Federal Educational Authorities in the US, and has to operate under the relevant laws of that country.

सुरक्षा परिषद की स्थाई सदस्यता प्राप्त करने के लिए भावी कार्य योजना

959. **श्री रामगोपाल यादवः**

श्री ईशा दत्त यादवः

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सितम्बर-अक्तुबर, 1997 के अपने विदेश दौरे के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री ने सुरक्षा परिषद की स्थाई सदस्यता प्राप्त करने के लिए कोई विचार-विमर्श किया था,

(ख) यदि हां, तो विचार का क्या परिणाम निकला, और

(ग) देश के लिए सुरक्षा परिषद की स्थायी सदस्यता की प्राप्ति के लिए सरकार की क्या भावी कार्य योजना है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा): (क) से (ग) संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा के पूर्व सत्र के अपने संबोधन में प्रधानमंत्री ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की स्थायी सदस्यता के लिए भारत की उम्मीदवारी दोहराई। संयुक्त राष्ट्र में बहस जारी है तथा उम्मीदवारों या मानदण्ड के विस्तार पर अभी तक कोई समझौता नहीं हुआ है। भारत की उम्मीदवारी का समर्थन प्राप्त करने के लिए सरकार विभिन्न सदस्य राष्ट्रो के संपर्क में है तथा इस मामले को जोरदार ढंग से बढ़ाएगी।

Conversion of two-year MDS course into three year course

960. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dental Council of India has recommended conversion of two-year MDS course into three year course;

(b) if so, what is the basis therefor;

(c) whether Government have since accepted this recommendation; and

(d) if so, by when it would become operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWHDURY): (a) to (d) Based on the orders dated 25.9.97 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Dental Council of India has recommended for conversion of two year P.G. degree course into three year without any Houscmanship. A Committee of experts in Directorate General of Health Services *inter alia* examined these proposals. However, a revised MDS course regulations has been received from the Dental Council of India on 25.11.97.

Per capita expenditure on Medicines in Bihar

961. SHRI GYAN RANJAN:Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount spent by Central Government on medicines in the rural areas of Bihar in general and Jharkhand region in particular;